## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE **CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

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INVENTOR(S)

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It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 8, lines 27-36, to read:

- 4. The system of claim 3, wherein the viable ones of the member peer nodes only perform the responding when the heartbeat is received within a period of time defined in the configuration data and when not received with the period of time, at least one of the viable ones of the member peer nodes intiates a cluster reformation which includes determining a new master node among the viable ones of the member peer nodes based on the master node priority values.
- 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the new master node stores the cluster configuration definign a new set of the peer nodes which are members of the clusters and periodically transmits a heartbeat to each of the peer nodes in the new set of cluster members.

Signed and Sealed this

Fifth Day of September, 2006

JON W. DUDAS Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office